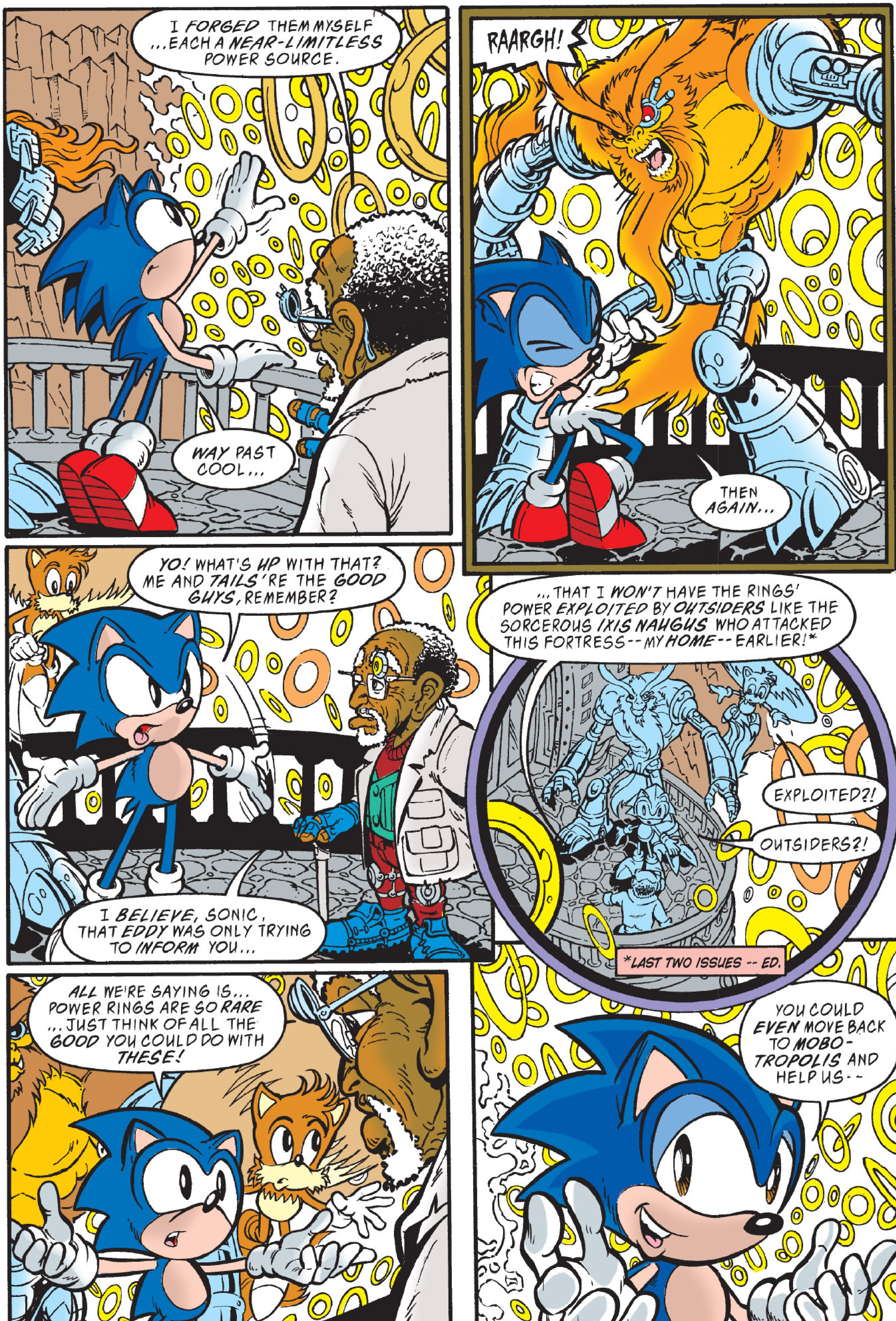


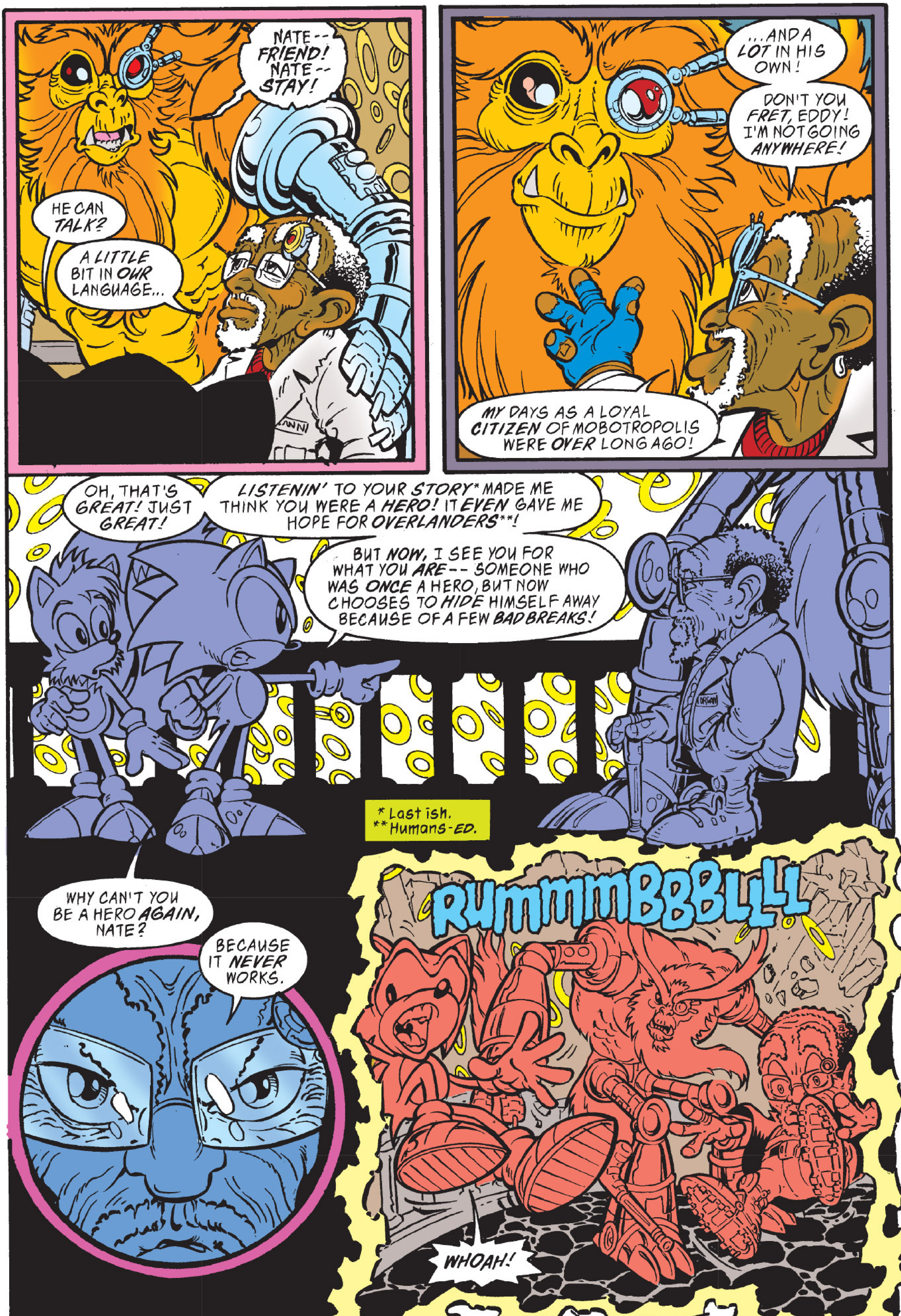
Archie
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NO.66 JAN.
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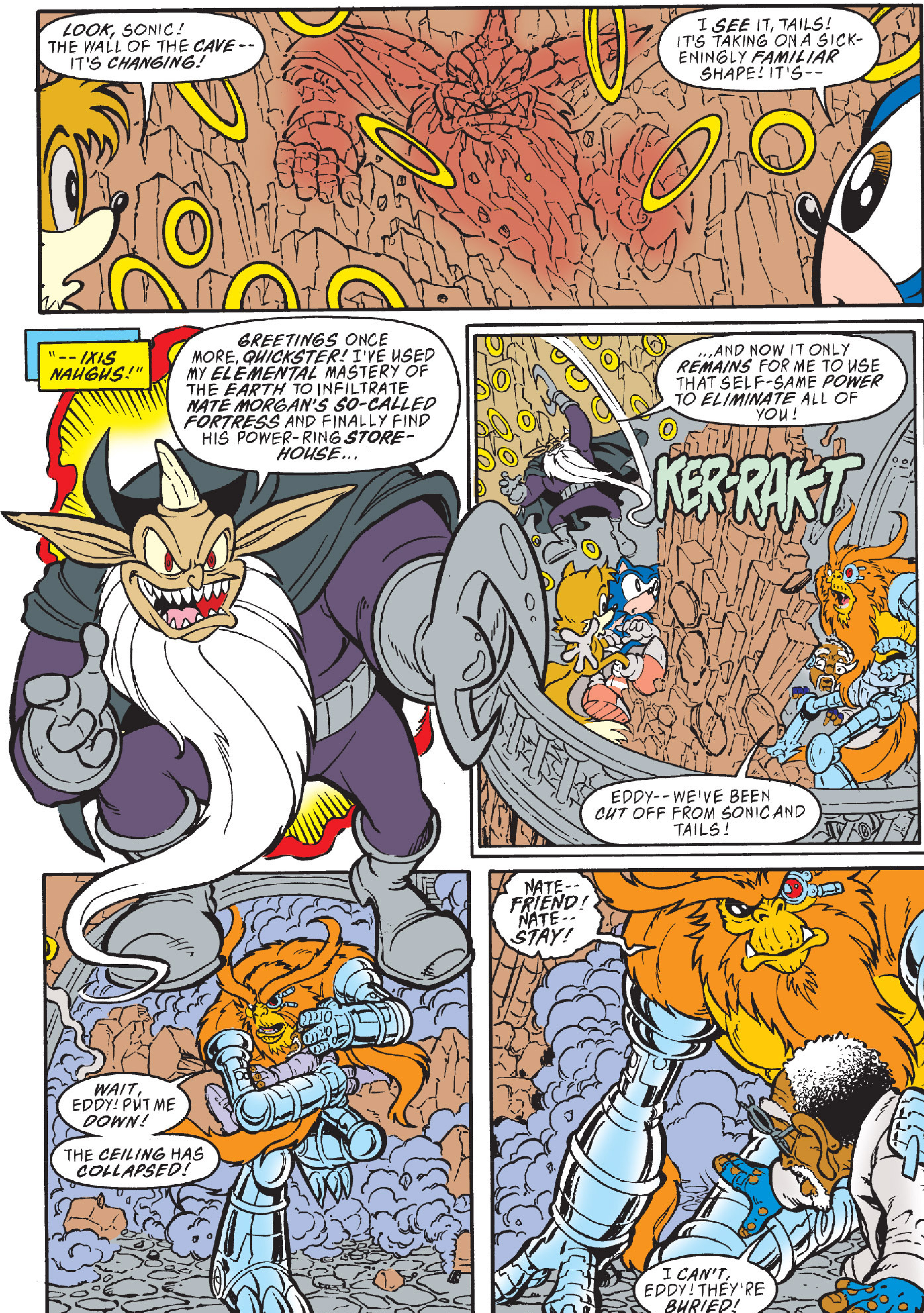

THE PLANET MOBIUS WAS ONCE A VIRTUAL PARADISE UNTIL IT WAS CONQUERED BY THE EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK! HIS TECHNOLOGICAL TYRANNY WOULD HAVE CONTINUED IF NOT FOR A HEROIC GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO BANDED TOGETHER AND RESTORED ORDER TO THE KINGDOM OF ACORN! THE BRAVEST AMONG THEM IS A BLUE STREAK FILLED WITH THE MOST ATTITUDE GOING AROUND - - AND, WITHOUT A DOUBT, HE IS THE FASTEST THING ALIVE!
ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!
POWER RINGS..

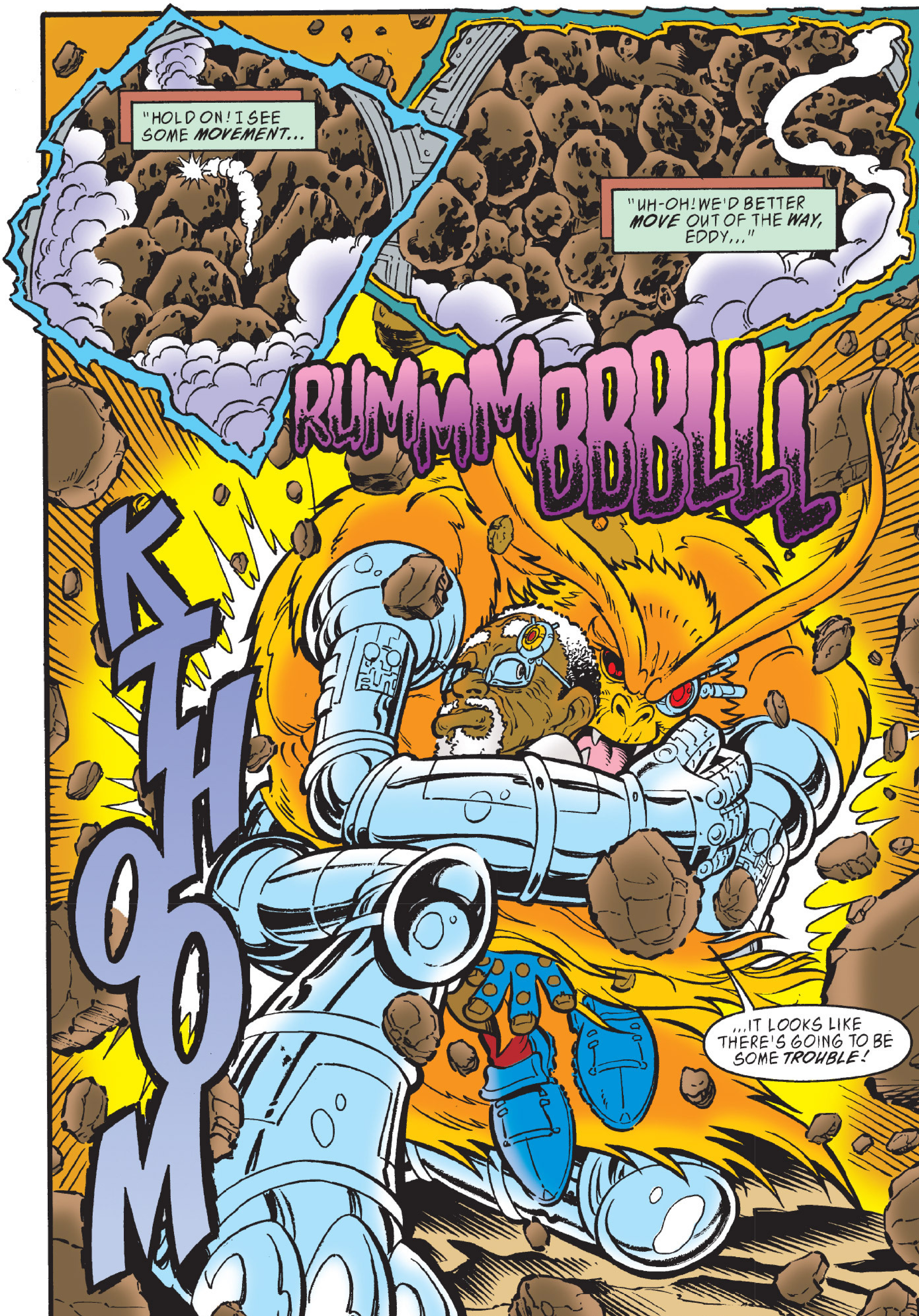



A Friend in Deed
KARL BOLLERS WRITER
STEVEN BUTLER PENCILER
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JEFF POWELL LETTERER
KEN PENDERS COLORIST
JUSTIN F. GABRIE EDITOR
VICTOR GORELICK MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
--YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE MESS O' POWER RINGS IN HERE, NATE!
YES, I DO, SONIC.
YES I DO.

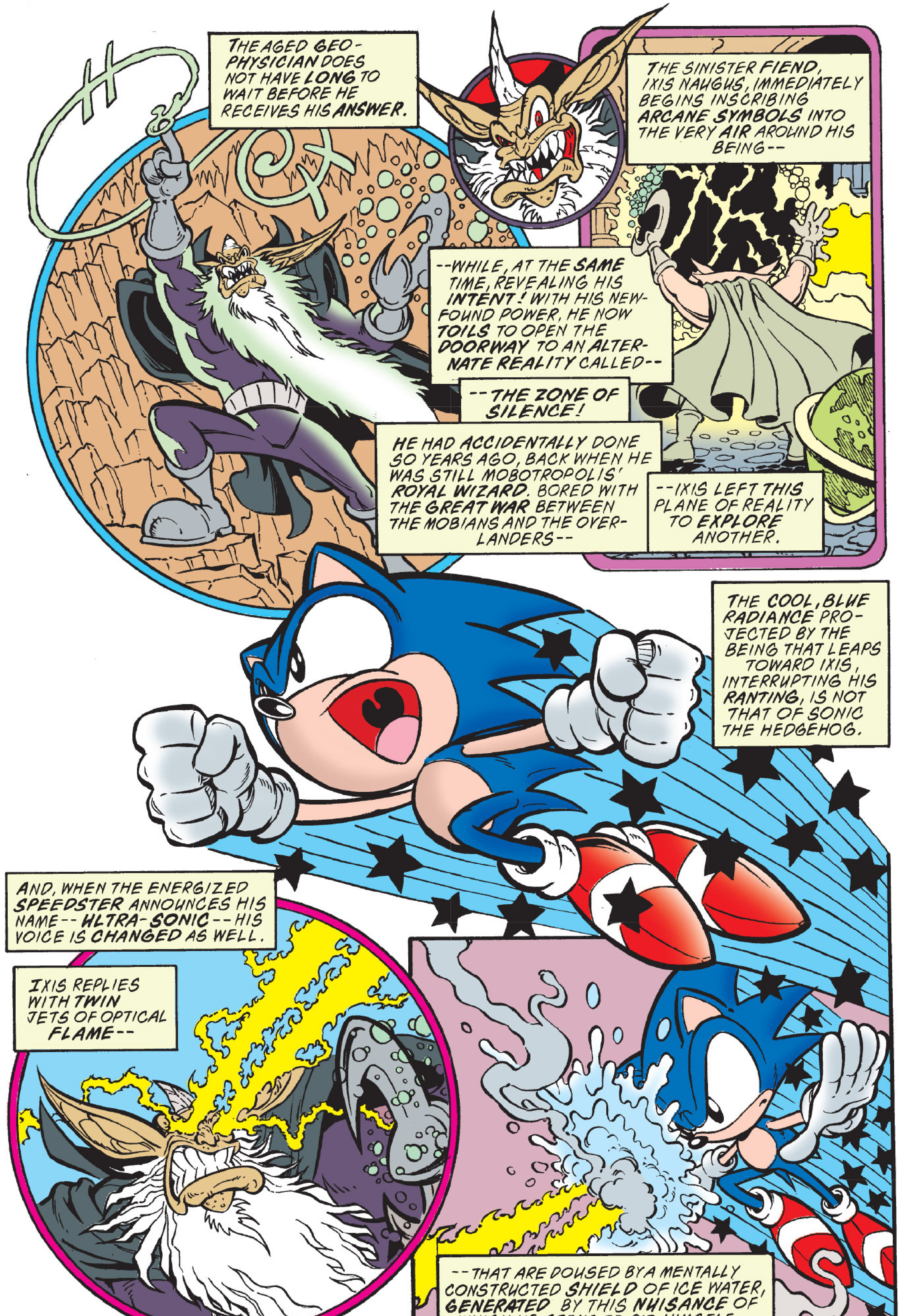

I FORGED THEM MYSELF ...EACH A NEAR-LIMITLESS POWER SOURCE.
WAY PAST COOL...
RAARGH!
THEN AGAIN...
YO! WHAT'S UP WITH THAT? ME AND TAILS'RE THE GOOD GUYS, REMEMBER?
I BELIEVE, SONIC, THAT EDDY WAS ONLY TRYING TO INFORM YOU...
...THAT I WON'T HAVE THE RINGS' POWER EXPLOITED BY OUTSIDERS LIKE THE SORCEROUS IXIS NAUGUS WHO ATTACKED THIS FORTRESS--MY HOME--EARLIER!*
EXPLOITED?!
OUTSIDERS?!
*LAST TWO ISSUES -- ED.
ALL WE'RE SAYING IS... POWER RINGS ARE SO RARE ...JUST THINK OF ALL THE GOOD YOU COULD DO WITH THESE!
YOU COULD EVEN MOVE BACK TO MOBO-TROPOLIS AND HELP US--

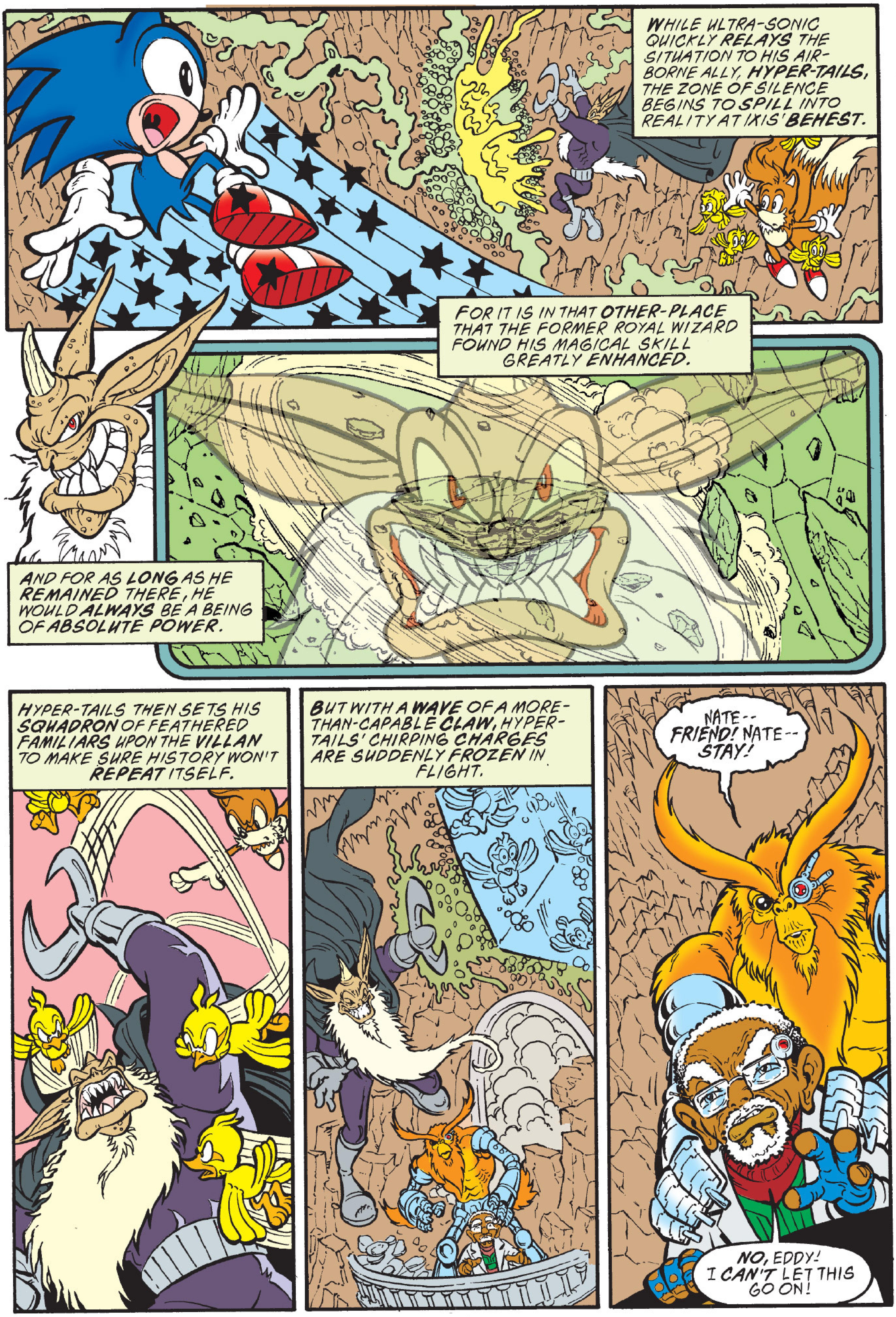

NATE-- FRIEND! NATE-- STAY!
HE CAN TALK?
A LITTLE BIT IN OUR LANGUAGE...
...AND A LOT IN HIS OWN!
DON'T YOU FRET, EDDY! I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
MY DAYS AS A LOYAL CITIZEN OF MOBOTROPOLIS WERE OVER LONG AGO!
OH, THAT'S GREAT! JUST GREAT!
LISTENIN' TO YOUR STORY* MADE ME THINK YOU WERE A HERO! IT EVEN GAVE ME HOPE FOR OVERLANDERS**!
BUT NOW, I SEE YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE-- SOMEONE WHO WAS ONCE A HERO, BUT NOW CHOOSES TO HIDE HIMSELF AWAY BECAUSE OF A FEW BAD BREAKS!
*Last ish.
**Humans-ED.
WHY CAN'T YOU BE A HERO AGAIN, NATE?
BECAUSE IT NEVER WORKS.
RUMMMMBBBLLLL!
WHOAH!

LOOK, SONIC! THE WALL OF THE CAVE-- IT'S CHANGING!
I SEE IT, TAILS! IT'S TAKING ON A SICKENINGLY FAMILIAR SHAPE! IT'S--
"--IXIS NAUGUS!"
GREETINGS ONCE MORE, QUICKSTER! I'VE USED MY ELEMENTAL MASTERY OF THE EARTH TO INFILTRATE NATE MORGAN'S SO-CALLED FORTRESS AND FINALLY FIND HIS POWER-RING STOREHOUSE...
...AND NOW IT ONLY REMAINS FOR ME TO USE THAT SELF-SAME POWER TO ELIMINATE ALL OF YOU!
KER-RAKT
EDDY--WE'VE BEEN CUT OFF FROM SONIC AND TAILS!
WAIT, EDDY! PUT ME DOWN!
THE CEILING HAS COLLAPSED!
NATE-- FRIEND! NATE-- STAY!
I CAN'T, EDDY! THEY'RE BURIED!

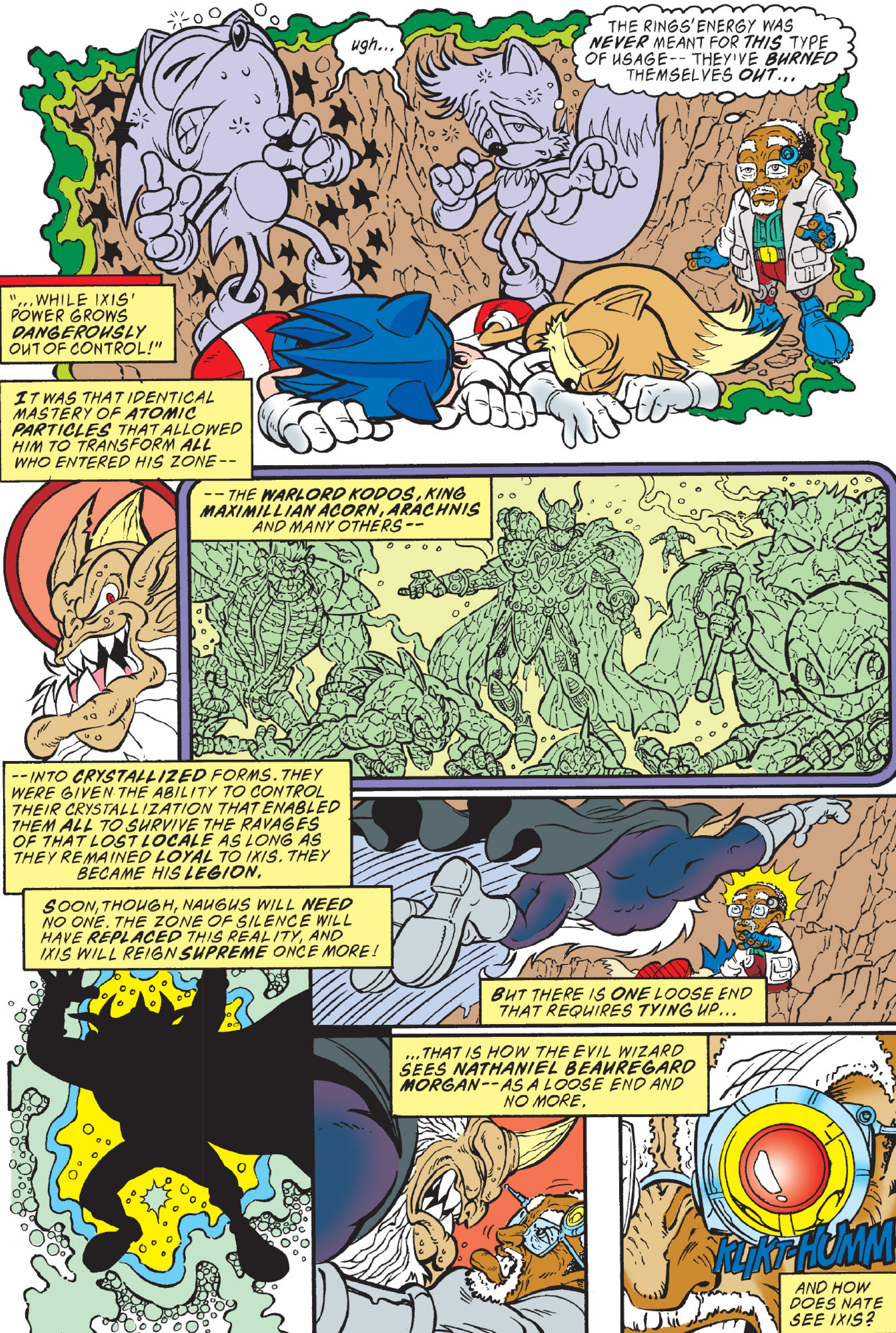

"HOLD ON! I SEE SOME MOVEMENT...
"UH-OH! WE'D BETTER MOVE OUT OF THE WAY, EDDY..."
RUMMMMBBBLLL
KTHOOOM
...IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME TROUBLE!


NATE MORGAN IS NOT ONE FOR UNDERSTATEMENT, BUT EVEN HE COULD NOT HAVE PREDICTED THIS TURN OF EVENTS!
THE POWER RINGS ARE NO MORE--
--ALL HAVE BEEN ABSORBED INTO THE THREE TRANSFORMED FIGURES BEFORE HIM!
BUT JUST HOW MANY RINGS HAVE EACH OF THEM USED TO BOLSTER THEIR OWN UNIQUE ABILITIES?
FIFTY?
ONE HUNDRED?
A THOUSAND?
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT WILL THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH ACTIONS ULTIMATELY BE?


THE AGED GEO-PHYSICIAN DOES NOT HAVE LONG TO WAIT BEFORE HE RECEIVES HIS ANSWER.
THE SINISTER FIEND, IXIS NAUGUS, IMMEDIATELY BEGINS INSCRIBING ARCANE SYMBOLS INTO THE VERY AIR AROUND HIS BEING--
--WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, REVEALING HIS INTENT! WITH HIS NEW-FOUND POWER, HE NOW TOILS TO OPEN THE DOORWAY TO AN ALTERNATE REALITY CALLED--
--THE ZONE OF SILENCE!
HE HAD ACCIDENTALLY DONE SO YEARS AGO, BACK WHEN HE WAS STILL MOBOTROPOLIS' ROYAL WIZARD. BORED WITH THE GREAT WAR BETWEEN THE MOBIANS AND THE OVERLANDERS--
--IXIS LEFT THIS PLANE OF REALITY TO EXPLORE ANOTHER.
THE COOL, BLUE RADIANCE PROJECTED BY THE BEING THAT LEAPS TOWARD IXIS, INTERRUPTING HIS RANTING, IS NOT THAT OF SONIC THE HEDGEHOG.
AND, WHEN THE ENERGIZED SPEEDSTER ANNOUNCES HIS NAME--ULTRA-SONIC--HIS VOICE IS CHANGED AS WELL.
IXIS REPLIES WITH TWIN JETS OF OPTICAL FLAME--
--THAT ARE DOUSED BY A MENTALLY CONSTRUCTED SHIELD OF ICE WATER, GENERATED BY THIS NUISANCE OF WHICH HE SEEKS TO RID HIMSELF.

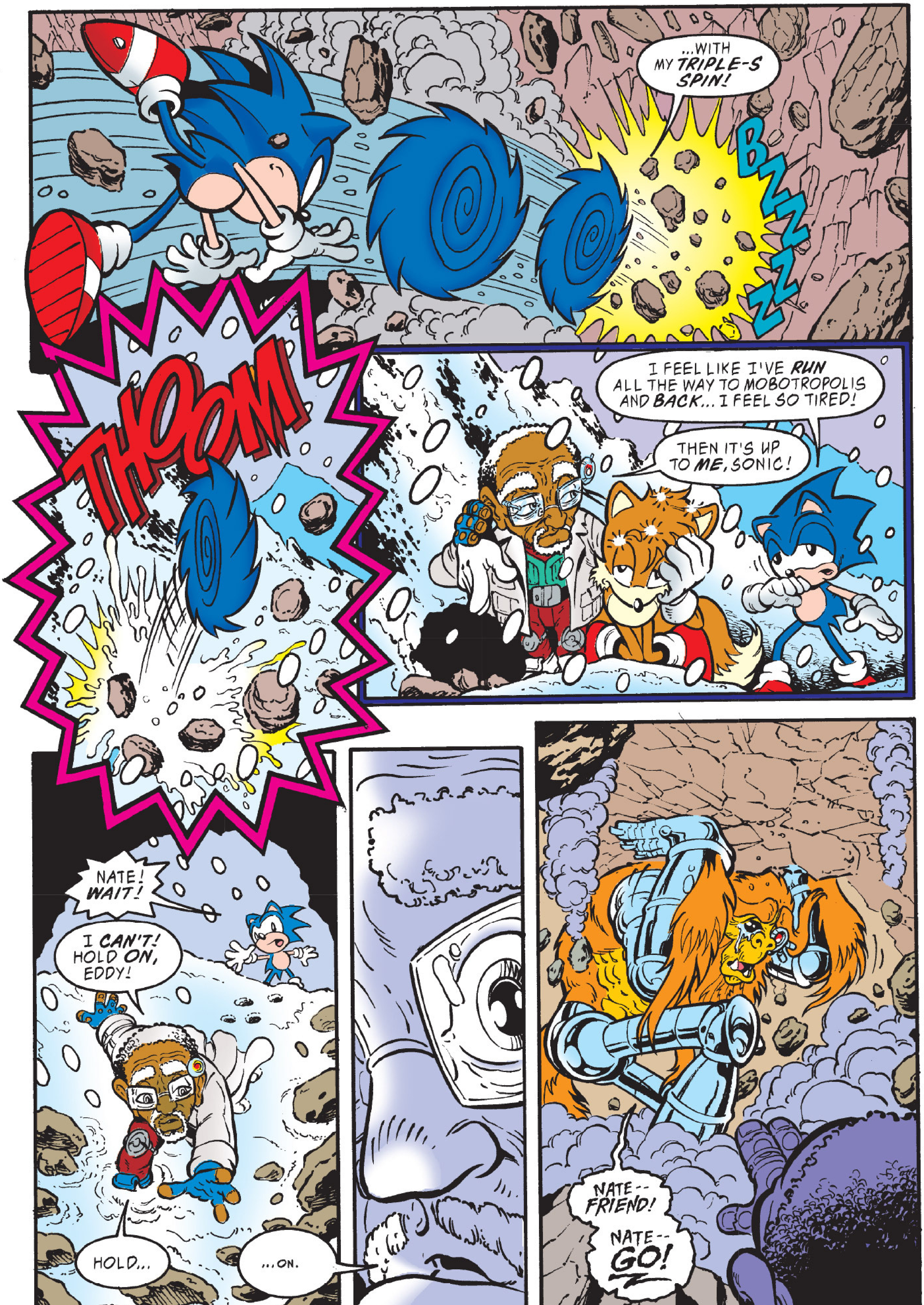

WHILE ULTRA-SONIC QUICKLY RELAYS THE SITUATION TO HIS AIR-BORNE ALLY, HYPER-TAILS, THE ZONE OF SILENCE BEGINS TO SPILL INTO REALITY AT IXIS' BEHEST.
FOR IT IS IN THAT OTHER-PLACE THAT THE FORMER ROYAL WIZARD FOUND HIS MAGICAL SKILL GREATLY ENHANCED.
AND FOR AS LONG AS HE REMAINED THERE, HE WOULD ALWAYS BE A BEING OF ABSOLUTE POWER.
HYPER-TAILS THEN SETS HIS SQUADRON OF FEATHERED FAMILIARS UPON THE VILLAN TO MAKE SURE HISTORY WON'T REPEAT ITSELF.
BUT WITH A WAVE OF A MORE-THAN-CAPABLE CLAW, HYPER-TAILS' CHIRPING CHARGES ARE SUDDENLY FROZEN IN FLIGHT.
NATE-- FRIEND! NATE-- STAY!
NO, EDDY! I CAN'T LET THIS GO ON!

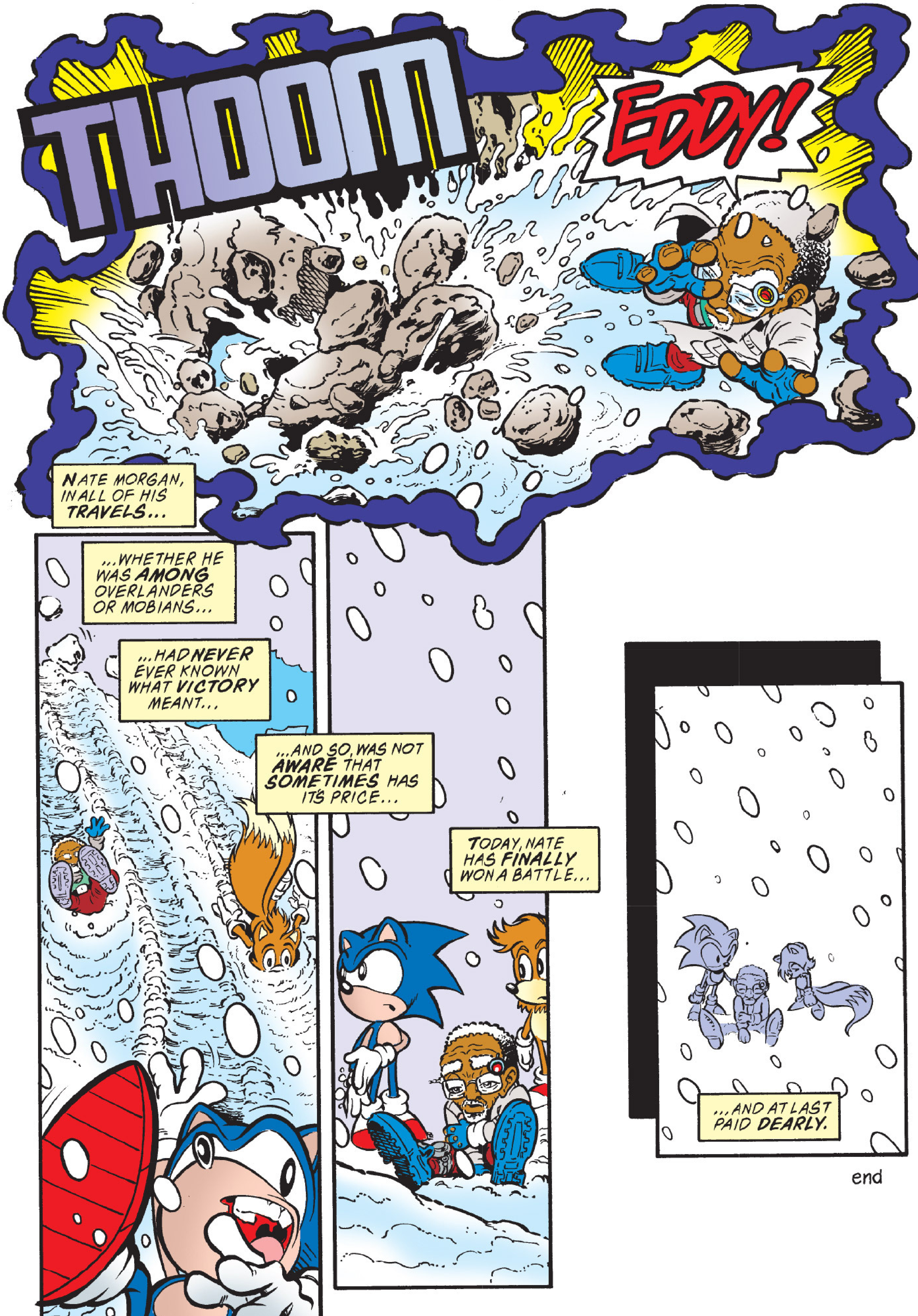

THE COMBATANTS' FURY ESCALATES WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT.
BOILING LIQUID SPLASHES AGAINST A WALL OF CONSTRUCTED GRANITE --
--AND IXIS TELLS OF HOW HE MET AND GAINED THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE MOBIAN CALLED FEIST--
--WHO WAS BANISHED TO THE ZONE OF SILENCE A SHORT TIME AFTER IXIS HAD ARRIVED THERE.
HOW DARE YOU WRECK MY HOME, NAUGUS?!
AFTER A MONSTROUSLY PIERCING CACKLE AND A MYSTIC GESTURE LATER, NATE IS SWEPT OFF HIS FEET--
--AND INTO THE ARMS OF A VALIANT VULPINE!
THEN...
WHAT HAPPENED, TAILS?
I CAN'T REMEMBER, SONIC... FEEL SO WEAK...
INCREDIBLE! THEY BOTH SEEM TO HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF THEIR TRANSFORMATION!

ugh...
THE RINGS' ENERGY WAS NEVER MEANT FOR THIS TYPE OF USAGE-- THEY'VE BURNED THEMSELVES OUT...
"...WHILE IXIS' POWER GROWS DANGEROUSLY OUT OF CONTROL!"
IT WAS THAT IDENTICAL MASTERY OF ATOMIC PARTICLES THAT ALLOWED HIM TO TRANSFORM ALL WHO ENTERED HIS ZONE--
--THE WARLORD KODOS, KING MAXIMILLIAN ACORN, ARACHNIS AND MANY OTHERS--
--INTO CRYSTALLIZED FORMS. THEY WERE GIVEN THE ABILITY TO CONTROL THEIR CRYSTALLIZATION THAT ENABLED THEM ALL TO SURVIVE THE RAVAGES OF THAT LOST LOCALE AS LONG AS THEY REMAINED LOYAL TO IXIS. THEY BECAME HIS LEGION.
SOON, THOUGH, NAUGUS WILL NEED NO ONE. THE ZONE OF SILENCE WILL HAVE REPLACED THIS REALITY, AND IXIS WILL REIGN SUPREME ONCE MORE!
BUT THERE IS ONE LOOSE END THAT REQUIRES TYING UP...
...THAT IS HOW THE EVIL WIZARD SEES NATHANIEL BEAUREGARD MORGAN--AS A LOOSE END AND NO MORE.
KLIKT-HUMM
AND HOW DOES NATE SEE IXIS?

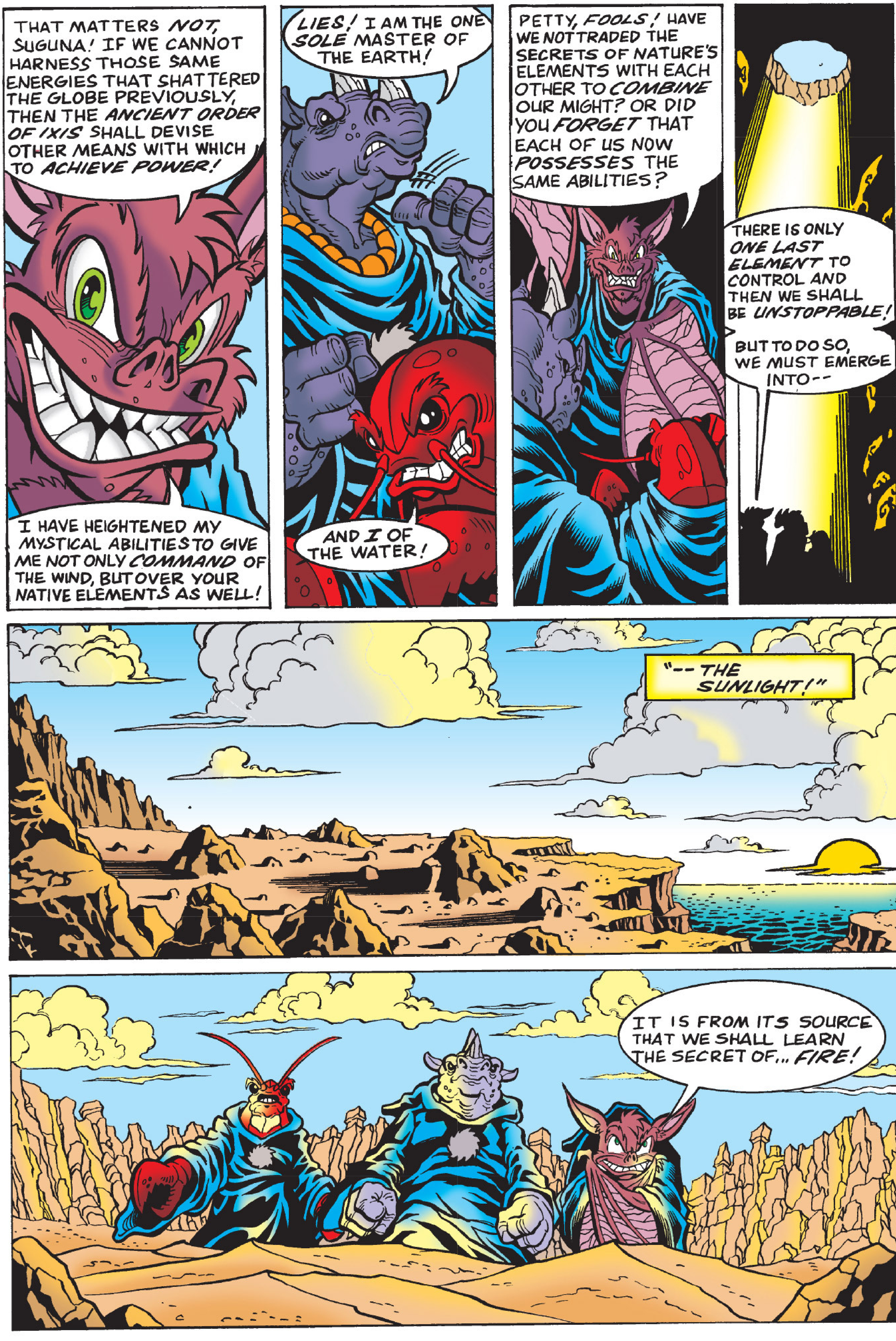


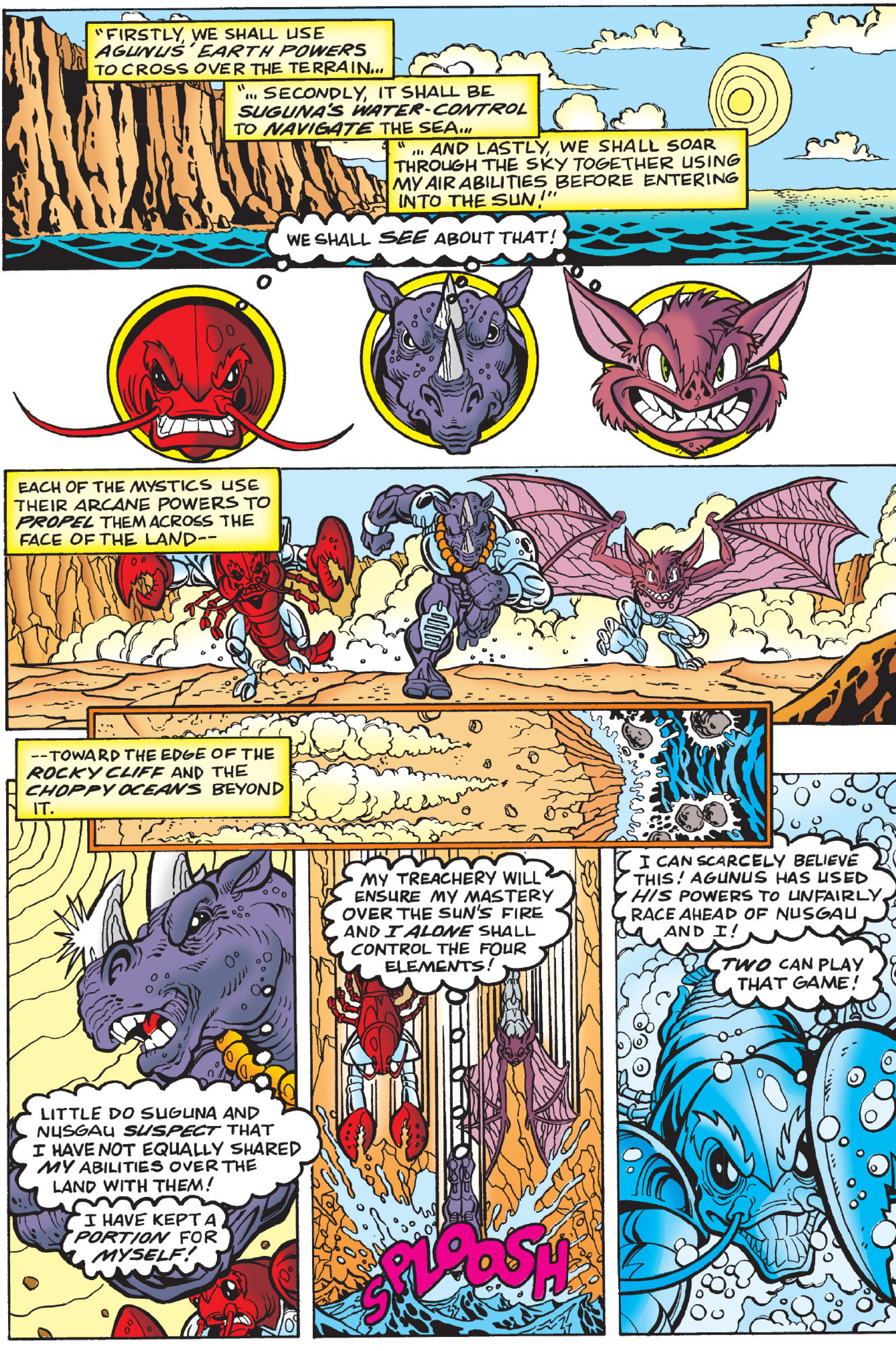
IN A NEW LIGHT! AN INSTANT LATER...
NOOOOOO
K-ZORCHT
...AND THE BATTLE IS OVER.
WITH BUT A WISH, TRUE OF HEART, FROM THE POWERFUL HIDDEN RING IN HIS EYE-PIECE... IXIS IS GONE AND THE ZONE OF SILENCE HAS BEEN RESEALED.
AND THE HEROES...?
uhh...
RUMMMBBELL
WHOOPS! ANOTHER AVALANCHE?
ROWRR!
EDDY?
OH, NO!
EDDY! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--
"--BEFORE THE ROOF CAVES IN!"
I'M ON IT...

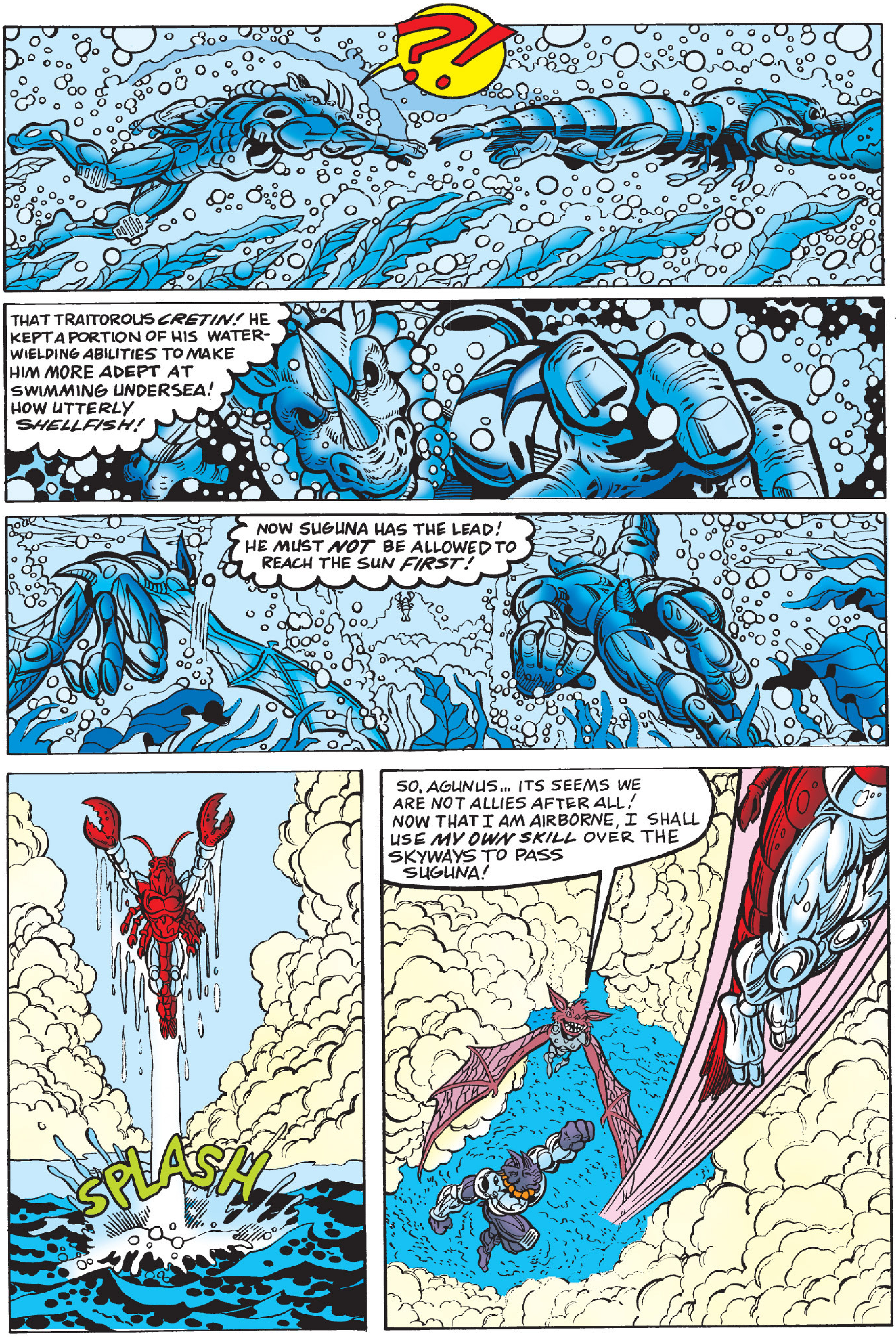

...WITH MY TRIPLE-S SPIN!
BZZZZZ
THOOM
I FEEL LIKE I'VE RUN ALL THE WAY TO MOBOTROPOLIS AND BACK... I FEEL SO TIRED!
THEN IT'S UP TO ME, SONIC!
NATE! WAIT!
I CAN'T! HOLD ON, EDDY!
HOLD...
...ON.
NATE-- FRIEND!
NATE-- GO!

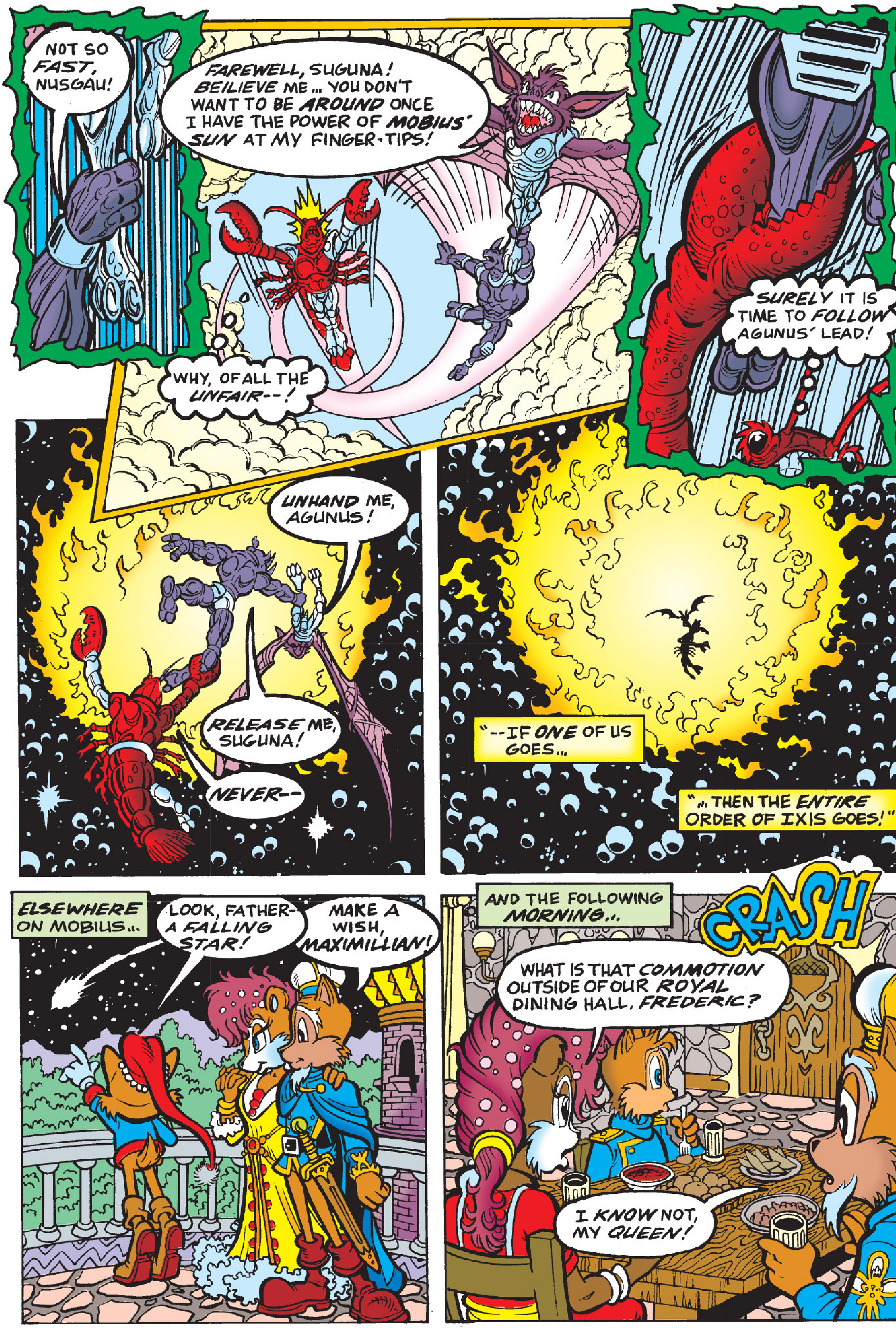

THOOM
EDDY!
NATE MORGAN, IN ALL OF HIS TRAVELS...
...WHETHER HE WAS AMONG OVERLANDERS OR MOBIANS...
...HAD NEVER EVER KNOWN WHAT VICTORY MEANT...
...AND SO, WAS NOT AWARE THAT SOMETIMES HAS ITS PRICE...
TODAY, NATE HAS FINALLY WON A BATTLE...
...AND AT LAST PAID DEARLY.
end


AND THEN THERE WAS ONE
(or the until now untold origin of Ixis Naugus!)
NO ONE RECALLS WHAT HAPPENED ON PLANET MOBIUS BEFORE THE FINAL DAYS OF FURY OVER A HUNDRED YEARS PAST.
ALL THAT IS KNOWN IS THAT ON THAT DAY, A SIGNIFICANT CATACLYSM SHOOK THE CONTINENTS TO THEIR VERY FOUNDATIONS--
--AND WIPED OUT ALL HISTORICAL RECORDS THE WORLD OVER.
KARL BOLLERS- WRITER
STEVEN BUTLER- PENCILER
ANDREW PEPOY- INKER
FRANK G.- LETTERER/COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIE-EDITOR
STILL THERE ARE THOSE...
POFF
...WHO SEEK THE HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE CONTAINED WITHIN THE PAST.
ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE MET WITH FAILURE, BROTHERS!
AGUNUS, SPEAKS THE TRUTH, NUSGAU! EVEN OUR COMBINED SPELLS CAN NOT ALLOW US THREE TO GLEAN WHAT CAUSED THE DAMAGE TO OUR WORLD CENTURIES BEFORE!


THAT MATTERS NOT, SUGUNA! IF WE CANNOT HARNESS THOSE SAME ENERGIES THAT SHATTERED THE GLOBE PREVIOUSLY, THEN THE ANCIENT ORDER OF IXIS SHALL DEVISE OTHER MEANS WITH WHICH TO ACHIEVE POWER!
I HAVE HEIGHTENED MY MYSTICAL ABILITIES TO GIVE ME NOT ONLY COMMAND OF THE WIND, BUT OVER YOUR NATIVE ELEMENTS AS WELL!
LIES! I AM THE ONE SOLE MASTER OF THE EARTH!
AND I OF THE WATER!
PETTY, FOOLS! HAVE WE NOT TRADED THE SECRETS OF NATURE'S ELEMENTS WITH EACH OTHER TO COMBINE OUR MIGHT? OR DID YOU FORGET THAT EACH OF US NOW POSSESSES THE SAME ABILITIES?
THERE IS ONLY ONE LAST ELEMENT TO CONTROL AND THEN WE SHALL BE UNSTOPPABLE!
BUT TO DO SO, WE MUST EMERGE INTO--
"--THE SUNLIGHT!"
IT IS FROM ITS SOURCE THAT WE SHALL LEARN THE SECRET OF... FIRE!


"FIRSTLY, WE SHALL USE AGUNUS' EARTH POWERS TO CROSS OVER THE TERRAIN...
"... SECONDLY, IT SHALL BE SUGUNA'S WATER-CONTROL TO NAVIGATE THE SEA...
"... AND LASTLY, WE SHALL SOAR THROUGH THE SKY TOGETHER USING MY AIR ABILITIES BEFORE ENTERING INTO THE SUN!"
WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT!
EACH OF THE MYSTICS USE THEIR ARCANE POWERS TO PROPEL THEM ACROSS THE FACE OF THE LAND--
--TOWARD THE EDGE OF THE ROCKY CLIFF AND THE CHOPPY OCEANS BEYOND IT.
LITTLE DO SUGUNA AND NUSGAU SUSPECT THAT I HAVE NOT EQUALLY SHARED MY ABILITIES OVER THE LAND WITH THEM!
I HAVE KEPT A PORTION FOR MYSELF!
MY TREACHERY WILL ENSURE MY MASTERY OVER THE SUN'S FIRE AND I ALONE SHALL CONTROL THE FOUR ELEMENTS!
SPLOOSH
I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE THIS! AGUNUS HAS USED HIS POWERS TO UNFAIRLY RACE AHEAD OF NUSGAU AND I!
TWO CAN PLAY THAT GAME!


?!
THAT TRAITOROUS CRETIN! HE KEPT A PORTION OF HIS WATER-WIELDING ABILITIES TO MAKE HIM MORE ADEPT AT SWIMMING UNDERSEA! HOW UTTERLY SHELLFISH!
NOW SUGUNA HAS THE LEAD! HE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO REACH THE SUN FIRST!
SPLASH
SO, AGUNUS... ITS SEEMS WE ARE NOT ALLIES AFTER ALL! NOW THAT I AM AIRBORNE, I SHALL USE MY OWN SKILL OVER THE SKYWAYS TO PASS SUGUNA!


NOT SO FAST, NUSGAU!
FAREWELL, SUGUNA! BEILIEVE ME... YOU DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND ONCE I HAVE THE POWER OF MOBIUS' SUN AT MY FINGER-TIPS!
WHY, OF ALL THE UNFAIR--!
SURELY IT IS TIME TO FOLLOW AGUNUS' LEAD!
UNHAND ME, AGUNUS!
RELEASE ME, SUGUNA!
NEVER--
"--IF ONE OF US GOES...
"...THEN THE ENTIRE ORDER OF IXIS GOES!"
ELSEWHERE ON MOBIUS...
LOOK, FATHER-- A FALLING STAR!
MAKE A WISH, MAXIMILLIAN!
AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
CRASH
WHAT IS THAT COMMOTION OUTSIDE OF OUR ROYAL DINING HALL, FREDERIC?
I KNOW NOT, MY QUEEN!


SUDDENLY, THE OAK DOORS FLY OPEN TO REVEAL A BIZARRE FIGURE...
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF... I AM...
...IXIS NAUGUS-- A WIZARD OF GREAT POWER AND ABILITY!
"I OFFER YOU, KING FREDERIC, MY HUMBLE SERVICES...
"...AND TOGETHER, WE SHALL LEAD THE KINGDOM OF ACORN INTO A GOLDEN AGE!
A BEGINNING...?